planned to expand the revised strategy to cover a population of 500 million by 2002 and 800 million by 2004. Under the RCH Programme interventions for prevention of deaths due to acute respiratory infections are being provided. Medical and Para-Medical Staff is being trained and Co-trimoxazole tablets for treatment of pneumonia in children under age of five years is provioded to the sub-centres as a part of the drug kit. In addition the immunization programme provides protection against six vaccine preventable diseases, some of which cause respiratory morbidity.

Availability of Cheap Medicines for TB

†2292. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of tuberculosis patients are in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that medicines available for this disease are very costly whereas the persons affected by it are totally poor and helpless; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government to provide medicines of this disease in the market at cheaper rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) India accounts for 1/3rd of global TB burden. About 14 lac new TB cases are detected and put on treatment under National TB Control Programme every year.

(b) and (c) The approximate cost for full treatment of a TB patient comes to around Rs. 280 to Rs. 700, depending upon the treatment regimen required for treating the patients. Under National TB Control Programme, anti-TB drugs for full course of treatment are provided free of cost to all TB patients.

Comprehensive plan to control HIV infection

2293. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any revamped comprehensive plan to control and/or combat the menacing diseases of HIV infection, particularly AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.